

PEACEFUL SLEEP FOR PLATT BILL

Scarcely Likely That Fight for Reduction Will be Very Vigorous.

NEW DISTRICT FOR VIRGINIA

Greed of Slem and Edwards Spoils Promising Conspiracy for New State.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 9.—Further investigation as to the sentiment in the House and the Senate in favor of the passage of a bill reducing representation in the South strengthens the belief that there will be only a very faint effort made to enact any such legislation at this session. Indeed, it is not likely that there will be more than a perfunctory effort made to pass such a bill at the next session; but there may be an investigation ordered of the reasons for the elimination of classes from the electorate in all the States which now have rigid provisions surrounding the granting of the privilege of the elective franchise.

Representative Brownlow, of Tennessee, said to-day that while he did not favor the Platt bill, though he is a Republican, he did favor some method by which the whole men entitled to vote in the South could be assured that their votes would be counted as cast.

"They are not always counted in Tennessee," said Mr. Brownlow. "I have about come to the conclusion that it would be well to give the Federal courts jurisdiction in State elections. In Tennessee the Federal judges are Democrats and ex-Confederate soldiers."

It will be a very cold day before a single Southern representative or senator will vote to give the United States control of State elections.

Will Get New District.

Representative Slem said to-day that he believed this Congress would pass a bill, which he will introduce in a few days, for the creation of the Middle Federal District of Virginia, composed of certain counties of the Western District. He said that Judge McDowell, who drew a bill laying off the district, has made certain changes in it. Mr. Slem was not certain whether he would introduce the bill drafted by Judge McDowell, but he will offer a bill of the same general character.

Mr. Slem said he was hopeful of securing the passage of a bill appropriating \$50,000 for the improvement of the post-office at Wytheville, and also a bill making an appropriation for a monument to General William Campbell, which it is proposed to erect at Abingdon.

Froze Brownlow Out.

Representative Slem, Representative Brownlow, of the Third Tennessee, and Representative-elect D. C. Edwards, of the Eleventh Kentucky, met in the Appropriations Committee room at the Capitol to-day. Mr. Slem's bill touches on Mr. Brownlow's, and Mr. Brownlow's borders on Mr. Edwards's. "Look here, Slem," said Mr. Brownlow, "why can't we three get together and form a new State out of the Republic? We can't do it, but we can do it. Certainly we can," said Mr. Slem. "I speak for the place of one of the senators."

CONGRESS MUST GURB RAILWAYS.

(Continued from First Page.)

of making history, and I believe he is going to make it."

The course of the stock market this week, the tremendous slump in stocks, which Wall Street ascribes in part to the declaration of the President in his message in favor of a law which will give to the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to regulate freight rates, indicates that the business interests of the country think that the President is going after the big corporations and trusts.

Oppose Army Appropriation.

Representative Hay, of Virginia, who is the most prominent Democratic member of the Committee on Military Affairs, said to-day that he would oppose such large appropriations for the army as are proposed. While the President said in his message that the army is now at the minimum size allowed by law, Mr. Hay says that it is in fact several thousand above the minimum. He will try to have it reduced to the minimum presently. The recruiting officers are bringing new men into the army all the time, he said, and while it is pretended that they are to take the places of men whose terms of enlistment have expired, the truth is that they go to fill up regiments not full, and do not take anybody's place.

"I am opposed to the proposed appropriation of \$1,700,000 for the manufacture of small arms," said Mr. Hay. "These arms are not for the use of the soldiers in the army now, but for the reserve. We have more arms stored now than an army very many times the size of ours could use. It is also proposed to appropriate a million dollars for rifle practice. I shall oppose throwing money away in that manner. It is all wrong to spend all this money on the army, and then raise the cry of a threatened deficit, when we ask for money for the improvement of rivers and harbors, and the erection of public buildings. I feel pretty certain that the Public Buildings Committee will not recommend the erection of any buildings this year."

Jones Looks for Fight.

Representative Jones, who is the senior Democrat on the Insular Affairs Committee, is looking for a fight again this year over a bill, which passed the House at the last session providing for the ex-

ploration of the island of Porto Rico. Mr. Jones and other Democrats of the House made a strong fight against the bill at the last session, claiming that it was in the sole interest of capitalists from the United States, who wanted to get rich at the expense of the people of the island. The bill is still pending in the Senate, the Republicans having been afraid to pass it on the eve of the presidential campaign. Mr. Jones thinks that it will put it through at this session, and that its provisions will be made even more objectionable than they were in the bill as it passed the House. He and other Democrats will make another fight against the measure this session, but there is not much hope of its being defeated. Mr. Jones spent some time on the island a year or two ago, and is quite familiar with conditions there. He is confident that the provisions of the bill will prove harmful to the interests of the islanders themselves, and that they will be he to the capitalists and adventurers from the United States.

Sentence From Message.

Here is a sentence from the President's message, which grammarians of the professional type may be able to parse, but the task will probably prove a hopeless one to less expert masters of our language, and the rules which govern its correct usage:

"Yet it is not to be expected that a people like ours, which, in spite of certain very obvious shortcomings, nevertheless shows as a whole by its consistent practice its belief in the principles of civil and religious liberty and of orderly freedom, a people among whom even the worst crime, like the crime of lynching, is never more than sporadic, so that individuals and not a nation should desire eagerly to give expression to its horror on an occasion like that of the massacre of the Jews in Kishineff, etc."

The foregoing will make a worded for any man who attempts to parse it, showing accurately the relation of the various parts of speech to one another. And after all, does it mean that Russia should not blame Americans for having signed the Kishineff petition?

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH IN SIGHT OF ITS PARENTS

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BALTIMORE, Md., December 9.—A young daughter of Mr. James Ellis, of Rowan county, was instantly burned to death yesterday afternoon. The little one was playing around an open fire, when its clothing ignited and burned rapidly, and the body was left in a charred and crisp condition.

The accident occurred in plain view of the parents and other members of the family, who were working near by, but could render no assistance.

PERSUADED GIRL NOT TO DELAY WEDDING

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BALTIMORE, Md., December 9.—Miss Regina Browning, daughter of Mrs. Alice Browning, of Linden, Warren county, Va., and Mr. James E. Walter, Jr., formerly of Linden, but now of Curtin, Nichols county, W. Va., were married



GOOD CROP OF WOOL!

"GIRL FROM DIXIE" IS WELL RECEIVED

Charming Young Lady Given a Hearty Welcome at the Academy.

"The Girl from Dixie" should have felt entitled at home on the stage of the Academy last night—and she no doubt did. She was given a welcome that certainly must have made her feel at home, for she was on the right side of Mason and Dixon's line. The production, in most respects, was much the same that it was last season, and there is little new to say about it. Clifford Leigh as Lord Dunsinore, makes an excellent type of the Englishman, as he is portrayed upon the stage. D. L. Don, in his impersonation of Ludwig Regensborden, works with his face more than he does with his mouth.

Those who couldn't hear him in the gallery could see his face, and that caused laughter. His monologue was a little different from the usual talk handed out over the footlights, and the audience held him as long as they could. It was his comedy work at the piano, however, that scored the hit of the performance. He had to remain fingering the keys of the piano until the audience very readily forgot the thread of the story, before the latter was finally resumed. Thomas J. Keogh, looking like the old time "legit," but impersonating a country lawyer, was quite clever in his speech as attorney for the English.

Miss Gertrude Millington, as "Kitty Chivers," is a winsome little woman, possessing a rather pretty face and a neat pair of ankles. All of the others were acceptable. The music was very well rendered, though there were no voices that would cause one to comment upon them in terms of very high praise.

PROSPERITY IN COTTON BELT

Reports Indicate Great Industrial Activity Throughout the South.

FARMERS ALL THRIVING

Are Getting Out of Debt and Becoming Independent Financially.

BALTIMORE, Md., December 9.—Bankers of the cotton belt present in this week's issue of the Manufacturers' Record many evidences of prosperity in their section. Under date of November 28th, they were asked for views on the financial condition of farmers and business men, the outlook for trade, the prospects for increase in manufacturing interests, the condition of banking interests, immigration and the general spirit of the people as to the upbuilding of their community. Coming from different States the replies indicate a degree of comfort and general prosperity unknown in the South in many years. The situation in Alabama is quite typical. Farmers there are in better financial condition than they have ever been, having made large crops this season and now selling their cotton at a fair average price. As a result, they are getting out of debt and becoming independent financially. It is significant that, in addition to the fair cotton crop they made a large corn crop this year. So in Georgia there are reports of full average crops, both of cotton and corn, and of plenty in the way of provisions, in addition to the staples, while in Tennessee, corn and hay crops have been good. The over production of rice in Louisiana has been counterbalanced by a healthy condition of the lumber market, and in Florida cattle business with Cuba and the raising of early vegetables and fruits have helped the farmers mightily. Improvement in farming conditions has been accompanied by advances in the price of farm lands during the past two years, from 25 to 50 per cent. In some parts of Georgia for instance, and from 50 to 100 per cent. in other parts, and by more than 100 per cent. in Alabama. Mortgages have been cancelled, diversification in crops is becoming more general, farmers of Arkansas now marketing fruit and vegetable crops to the value of from \$50 to \$100 an acre, and in Louisiana the sugar crop is estimated to be 120,000 tons. Fort Smith being one of the largest original shipping points for Irish potatoes in the United States. The many substantial improvements in the way of new buildings, first class roads, etc., reflect the spirit of progress intensified by prosperity.

Increase in Earnings.

A study of the reports of fifteen leading railroads in the South, including four whose mileage does not altogether lie in this section of the country, although a very large part of it, shows a display of the gratifying fact that the earnings of these roads are increasing as the season advances. All the lines referred to show an increase in earnings up to and including September, and in nearly every instance each company shows that month an increase of greater value than its average for the three months since July 1st, when the fiscal year of all but one of the lines began. Some of the gains are remarkable large, but partly to enlarged business and receipts, and partly to the can-

crease, net 7.38 per cent. increase; Seaboard Air Line, gross 4.67 per cent. increase, net 2.78 per cent. increase; Norfolk and Western, gross 5.01 per cent. increase, net 7.51 per cent. increase; Chesapeake and Ohio, gross 5.80 per cent. increase, net 16.68 per cent. increase; Louisville and Nashville, gross 1.17 per cent. increase, net 15.35 per cent. increase; Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis, gross 3.35 per cent. increase, net 6.29 per cent. increase; Mobile and Ohio, gross 5.78 per cent. increase, net 8.24 per cent. increase; Illinois Central, gross 4.77 per cent. increase, net 49.82 per cent. increase; Yazoo and Mississippi Valley, gross 5.91 per cent. increase, net 12.12 per cent. increase; Rock Island System, gross 13.28 per cent. decrease, net 14.22 per cent. decrease; St. Louis and San Francisco, gross 4.82 per cent. increase, net 13.16 per cent. increase; Missouri Pacific, gross .66 of 1 per cent. decrease, net 4.33 per cent. decrease;

ALL THAT IS BEST.

Every department of to-morrow's issue of the Sunday Times-Dispatch will be up to the highest standard. Each of the three big sections will constitute a good newspaper. In addition to the full news service, covering all the world, and the usual departments, there will be feature articles that will interest

Men, Women and Children.

The second of our series of articles, by Alleyne Ireland, the distinguished writer, discusses the modern colonial administrator, his duties, surroundings and equipment.

Henry Clews, in a bright interview with Mr. Carpenter, talks about success in Wall Street, "the Shrine of the Golden Calf."

Czar Nicholas, in a special interview with William T. Stead, declares: "I would not inflict my position on my worst enemy."

....DON'T FAIL TO GET....

THE SUNDAY TIMES-DISPATCH.

POPE PRESIDES OVER UNVEILING OF STATUE

Pontifical Mass in St. Peter's in Honor of Immaculate Conception.

(By Associated Press.)

ROME, December 9.—A pontifical mass was celebrated this morning in St. Peter's in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

As the cortege entered St. Peter's the choir sang "Tu es Petrus." The procession passed on to the papal altar, where was deposited the triple crown.

After the celebration of mass at the high altar, the procession slowly reformed and wended its way to the chapel choir, where the pontiff, with great emotion, presided over the unveiling of the statue of the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception, bearing its magnificent new diamond crown, the gift of the faithful in all parts of the world as homage to the Virgin. After the ceremony the procession returned to the Vatican, the Pope, who was fatigued, going immediately to his private apartments. The pontiff looked somewhat white and worn. The Americans present, including the ecclesiastics and those admitted by ticket, numbered 573.

DISCOVERS ANTI-TOXIN FOR SPOTTED FEVER

(By Associated Press.)

HARTFORD, CONN., Dec. 9.—A solution of the method of treating cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, commonly known as spotted fever, which, should it prove successful, would be great aid to the medical profession, is announced by Dr. Arthur J. Wolf, bacteriologist of the Hartford Board of Health. Dr. Wolf believes that anti-toxin of spotted fever is found in the diphtheria germ. When the epidemic of spotted fever was at its height in this city, Dr. Wolf, assisted by Dr. Allen H. Williams, began experiments with pure cultures obtained by punctures made in the spinal canal, and all these lymphs so obtained were found to contain the typical germ which is the cause of the disease.

Speak at Methodist Mission.

Rev. Henry Pearce Atkins, pastor of the West End Christian Church, will deliver an address to-night at the temperance meeting which will be held at the Methodist Institute, Nineteenth and Main Streets, at 8 o'clock. Mr. Atkins is a strong and magnetic speaker, and the public is promised a pleasant and profitable evening. Attractive music by one of Richmond's best soloists and also by a quartette will be features of the evening. Those who are interested in the cause of temperance, as well as the public at large, are invited to be present.

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DAILY CONFERENCES ON TARIFF REVISION

Extra Session May be Called to Meet Next Fall—Trip South.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 9.—President Roosevelt is conferring daily with members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives on the subject of tariff revision. It can be said that the idea of calling an extra session next spring has been practically abandoned. It would be nearly impossible for the committees of Congress to prepare a tariff measure for presentation to the House before July 1st next.

While no decision yet has been reached regarding the revision of the tariff, it is pretty well understood now that the revision should be decided upon, an extra session of Congress will be called to meet next fall.

The President's proposed Southern trip is dependent upon the final decision regarding the revision of the tariff; if an extraordinary session next spring, if Congress should not be in session, it is the President's intention to take a trip, but it will not be as at present contemplated, a tour of the South. It is expected now the President will go to San Antonio, Texas, by way of Louisville, Ky., and through Indian Territory. After the reunion of the Rough Riders, the President hopes to have the time for a hunting trip in the mountains of Colorado. On his return trip he may stop at some points in the South, but it will be some time before a determination of the itinerary is reached.

Bank Robbers Get \$3,000.

(By Associated Press.)
BENID, OKLA., Dec. 9.—The Farmers' State Bank of Lambert, has been robbed by three men, who dynamited the safe, obtaining \$3,000 as their booty. While two robbers worked inside, the third guarded them, holding the horses. The robbers escaped, making for the Glass Mountains. A posse is in pursuit.

Railroad Case.

The case of the Great Falls and Old Dominion Railroad Company vs. the Great Falls Power Co., in which the railroad falls power company, which the railroad falls power company, was represented before the commission by Hon. R. Walton Moore, while the interests of the Power Company were looked after by Mr. William H. White, of Norfolk. The day was spent in the hearing of testimony, and the commission adjourned to consider its action.

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